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64 Novel hydrocarbon resins and their use in adhesives.

67 Hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins from cyclopentadiene and/or substituted cyclopentadiene of softening point below 90°C and having a (Tg) as from 35 to 70 lower than the softening point with less than 12 wt.% of the resin having a molecular weight above 1000 are particularly useful as tackifiers in pressure sensitive adhesives especially in hydrogenated styrene/butadiene/styrene block copolymer adhesive formulations where their use can obviate the need for plasticising oil.

NOVEL HYDROCARBON RESINS AND THEIR USE IN ADHESIVES

- 1 This invention relates to certain hydrocarbon resins obtained from petroleum distillates and their use as tackifiers for block copolymers, and to adhesive compositions comprising such resins and such copolymers.
- 5 Broadly speaking, synthetic adhesives used in packaging can be classified into the categories: water based, solvent based, reactive, hot melt and pressure sensitive adhesives. Recently the use of hot melt adhesives has been growing very rapidly in the packaging industry. The hot melt adhesives
- 10 are generally applied by conventional extrusion or coating techniques in the temperature range of 250 to 450°F on one of the surfaces to be bonded. The other surface is brought into contact with the hot surface for a sufficient period of time for the melt to cool, so that, upon solidification, a
- 15 strong and durable bond is formed. Typically these adhesives contain appropriate polymers and hydrocarbon resin tackifiers. The key requirements of resins suitable for hot melt adhesives applications are that they contribute (i) good tackifying characteristics for the polymer, (ii) good
- 20 physical properties, e.g., good tensile strength and (iii) reduction in the viscosity at application temperatures.

Pressure sensitive adhesives also comprise resin tackifiers and polymers, and they should have good cohesive and tackifying properties at ambient conditions. These

25 adhesives should also have good flow characteristics if they are to be used in the bulk state; otherwise they should possess sufficient consistency when dissolved in suitable solvents so that they can be coated or sprayed on the surfaces to be bonded. Usually these adhesives are prepared

30 from a mixture of resin and polymer (and plasticizer when

1 required to soften the adhesive and enhance the aggressive
tack). Resins which are suitable for pressure sensitive
adhesive applications are ones which have (i) good
tackifying characteristics for the polymer; and (ii) good
5 physical properties, e.g., good tensile strength it should
also serve to lower the viscosity of the polymeric component
for ease of application of the pressure sensitive adhesive.

A number of commercially available rubbery block copolymers
are widely used as the polymers in pressure sensitive
10 adhesives. The adhesives prepared from blends incorporating
these copolymers have very good adhesive and strength
properties at room temperature and can be processed by
conventional melt coating and extrusion techniques because
of their good flow characteristics.

15 The present invention is primarily concerned with pressure
sensitive adhesives where the polymer is an elastomeric
block copolymer especially the commercially available
hydrogenated butadiene/styrene block copolymer such as the
material sold by Shell as "Kraton G". These materials are
20 preferred materials in adhesives because they are heat and
light stable and so can be used when exposed to light such
as for sticking materials to glass. These block copolymers
are however difficult to tackify with conventional
hydrocarbon resin tackifiers such as the materials sold by
25 Esso Chemical as Escorez 5000 and Escorez 5380 because their
addition tends to undesirably increase the Tg of the blend
so reducing its elasticity. It has therefore been necessary
to limit the amount of resin in the adhesive formulation and
also to use significant quantities of extender oil to retain
30 the elasticity and plasticity of the adhesive.

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- 1 We have now found that careful control of the molecular weight distribution of the resin produces materials which are particularly effective as tackifiers for these hitherto difficult to tackify block copolymers.
- 5 Accordingly the present invention provides a hydrogenated hydrocarbon resin containing monomer units derived from cyclopentadiene optionally together with alkyl substituted cyclopentadiene, acyclic dienes and vinyl aromatics having a softening point which is lower than 90°C and a glass
- 10 transition temperature (Tg) as determined by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) which is from 35 to 70°C lower than the softening point and a molecular weight distribution such that the amount of material of molecular weight above 1000 is less than 12 wt% of the total material.
- 15 Such a resin has been found to be particularly suited for tackifying purposes if its softening point is below 80°C and especially below 70°C, preferably being in the range 45-80°C, more preferably 50-70°C and especially about 63°C. Softening Point is measured by the test method ASTM E-28.
- 20 The Tg value should be from 35 to 70°C preferably 40 to 60°C lower than the softening point. It is especially preferred that the resin have a Tg lower than 30°C. The Tg is the mid point of the glass transition temperature range as measured by Differential Scanning Calorimetry.
- 25 The molecular weight distribution of the resin is determined by Gell Permeation Chromatography (GPC) calibrated against polystyrene standards.

1 Resins may conveniently be prepared from a feed containing
cyclopentadiene by thermal polymerisation in for example a
benzene or toluene solvent for 2.0-4.0 hours at 220-270°C
and about 14 bars pressure the feed may in addition contain
5 alkyl cyclopentadiene, dimers and codimers of cyclo-
pentadiene and methyl cyclopentadiene and it may also
contain other acyclic dienes such as piperylene 1,3 and
isoprene. Other copolymerisable unsaturated monomers such as
vinyl aromatics such as styrene, α -methyl styrene, indene
10 and vinyl toluene may also be present. The feed should
however contain at least 45 wt.% of cyclopentadiene based on
total weight of polymerisable materials preferably at least
60 wt.%. Such reactions generally yields a CPD-rich resin,
yellowish in colour, having an M_w of about 400-600 and a
15 softening point of about 80-120°C.

Hydrogenation may be achieved by subsequent dilution in an
inert hydrocarbon solvent and hydrogenation by for example
the technique of UK Patent 1 202 802 or European Patent
Applications 81-303319.8 and 82-306853.1. The
20 polymerisation and stripping conditions are adjusted
according to the nature of the feed to obtain the resin of
the present invention for example a CPD-and/or methyl
CPD-rich feed is polymerised at 240-270°C, preferably about
245°C to 255°C for 1.5-3 hours, preferably about 2 hours and
25 at 5-15 bar pressure depending on the solvent and
temperature, to yield a yellowish resin of softening point
in the range 50-70°C. Hydrogenation then results in a
resin of the present invention having a softening point of
approximately 60°C and the defined relationship between
30 softening point and T_g and the required molecular weight
distribution.

1 Alternatively the resin of the present invention may be
obtained by extracting the portion having the desired
molecular weight distribution from a similar resin of
different molecular weight distribution. As a further
5 alternative the resin of the invention may be obtained by
blending a liquid and a solid preferably flakeable resin
each of which may be produced by the techniques described
above.

As mentioned above such novel resins have proved to be
10 suitable as tackifiers in certain adhesive formulations.
Thus another aspect of the invention provides the use of the
novel resin as defined above as tackifier for an adhesive
formulation comprising said resin and an elastomeric
component.

15 Yet another aspect of the invention provides an adhesive
composition comprising:

- (i) an elastomeric polymer; and as tackifier for said
polymer,
- (ii) a hydrogenated hydrocarbon resin containing
20 monomer units derived from cyclopentadiene and/or
substituted cyclopentadiene having a softening
point (SP) which is below 90°C and a glass
transition temperature (Tg) as determined by
differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) which is
25 from 35 to 70°C lower than the softening point and
a molecular weight distribution such that the
amount of material of molecular weight above 1000
is less than 12 wt.% of the total material.

The adhesive composition according to the invention is
30 particularly a pressure sensitive adhesive wherein the
elastomeric polymer is a block copolymer. The block
copolymers may be of the AB type. Thus, when an end block A

1 is joined to an elastomer block B, and A-B block copolymer
unit is formed which unit can be coupled by various
techniques or with various coupling agents to provide a
structure such as A-B-A, which may in reality be two A-B
5 blocks joined together in a tail/tail arrangement. By a
similar technique a radial block copolymer can be formed
having the formula $(A-B)_nX$ wherein X is the hub or central,
polyfunctional coupling agent and n is a number greater than
2. Using the coupling agent technique, the functionality
10 of X determines the number of A-B branches. By way of
example, each block A has an average molecular weight
between 1,000 and 60,000 and each block B has an average
molecular weight between 5,000 and 450,000. The total
molecular weight of the block copolymer may be in excess of
15 100,000 or 200,000. e.g. 300,000.

Particularly preferred block copolymers are hydrogenated
copolymers where the mid block B derives from a polydiene
and A represents a polystyrene block, such copolymers
showing an excellent combination of properties which is
20 enhanced for pressure sensitive adhesive applications when
tackified using the novel resin of the invention. The term
polystyrene as used above is meant to include those polymer
blocks based on styrene itself and also alpha-methyl styrene
and other derivatives thereof. The mid blocks of the block
25 copolymer are generally derived from butadiene, and may for
example constitute 70% by weight or more of the copolymer.
Examples of such copolymers are those marketed by Shell
under the trade name KRATON G.

The block copolymers which are currently being used in
30 adhesives technology, because of their inherent structure,
have one serious drawback with respect to their use as a
satisfactory adhesive candidate. Since both polybutadiene
and polyisoprene are highly unsaturated, the block

1 copolymers containing them as blocks are highly susceptible to thermal and oxidative degradation, and so hydrogenated copolymers are preferred because they have improved stability.

5 In order to circumvent these undesired properties of adhesives prepared using for example SBS block copolymers, steps to modify the structure of these polymers have been taken. Recent block copolymers have been developed in which
10 the mid unsaturated blocks of e.g. polybutadiene or polyisoprene are hydrogenated to yield a saturated mid block. The saturated mid block is stable not only from a processing point of view, but from UV light during storage and use as well. The excellent thermal stability inherent in the saturated backbone is a very desirable property for
15 adhesives which will be exposed to high temperatures for long times.

However, in practice it has been found that these saturated mid block copolymers are difficult to tackify and it is necessary to incorporate substantial levels of a
20 plasticizer, usually a naphthenic oil whereby the aggressiveness of tack and other requisite properties of these tertiary blends can be controlled. The use of plasticizers results in a number of deleterious effects on the making and using of pressure sensitive adhesive
25 compositions including long term degradation of adhesion. Moreover, the plasticizing effect of oil is detrimental to cohesive strength and elevated temperature properties.

These hydrogenated block copolymers generally have an Mn as measured by GPC of about 25,000 to about 300,000, more
30 preferably about 30,000 to about 200,000, and most preferably about 50,000 to about 150,000. In the ABA structure of this copolymer A is a block of styrene (total

1 15% wt) whose number average molecular weight is 10,000 to 30,000, and B is a block of hydrogenated polybutadiene (85% wt) having a number average molecular weight of about 125,000.

5 For improved tackifying and economic effect, the defined resin is preferably incorporated in a major proportion, which is here intended to mean in an amount by weight at least equal to the amount by weight of the block copolymer component of the adhesive composition. For example the
10 composition may contain 100-250 parts resin per hundred parts rubber (phr), preferably 125-225 phr and more preferably 150-200 phr.

Optionally the adhesive compositions of the invention may additionally include a plasticizing oil, but it is a
15 noteable feature of adhesive compositions according to the invention that in the absence of oil the defined low softening point resins still generally confer good tack, adhesion, cohesive strength and hot shear on block copolymer elastomers even at high resin loadings. Moreover, the
20 absence of oil leads towards better ageing properties of the adhesive and reduced bleed-out of the oil, hence reduce staining. Such properties are particularly useful for pressure sensitive adhesives (PSA) such as are required for tape or label applications. Accordingly a particularly
25 preferred embodiment of the invention provides an adhesive composition containing components (i) and (ii) as hereinbefore in the absence of oil or other plasticizing material.

The following Examples illustrate the invention.

1 Example 1

A resin having a softening point of 63°C was produced from a feed containing about 60% CPD, 10-15% methyl-CPD and 8% acyclic dienes as codimers by thermal polymerisation at 245°C for 2 hours, followed by hydrogenation. Characteristics of the resin produced were as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

	Softening point	63
10	Saybolt colour	19
	Bromine number	1.3
	Mw by GPC	327
	Mn	88
	Mw/Mn	3.73
15	Wax cloud point (°C)	< 75
	EVA 220/Resin/microwax 30/45/25 wt.%	
	Tg	+11°C
	Amount of material of molecular weight above 1000	8%
20		

Example 2

The resin of Example 1 was tested for suitability as a tackifier for a hydrogenated SBS block copolymer. Thus the resin was incorporated into a Kraton G 1657 copolymer, together with an oil and an antioxidant, according to the following formulation in parts by weight.

	Kraton G 1657	100
	Resin	200
	Flexon 876	50
30	Irganox 1076	0.5

- 1 This formulation, which it is noted contains a relatively high loading of the paraffinic oil Flexon 876, corresponds to that recommended by the manufacturer of Kraton G 1657 when conventional resins are employed as tackifiers.
- 5 The above blend was produced by mixing in a Z blade mixer heated at 100°C to 120°C to ensure good mixing (about 2 hours). The properties of the blend were assessed by performing standard tests of viscosity ASTM-D3236 ball tack PSTC-6, polyken tack ASTM D 2979, loop tack FTM 9, shear on steel PSTC-7, Shear Adhesion Failure Temperature (SAFT) 180°C peel and pick up (PSTC-1).
- 10

Results of the various tests are shown in Table 2.

Example 3 (Comparison)

- 15 A formulation corresponding to that of Example 2 was produced but using the commercially available resin Escorez 5380 having a softening point of 86°C a Tg of +28°C and containing 15 to 18 wt % material of molecular weight above 1000 and subjected to the same tests as described in Example 2 with the results shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Tests	Example 2	Example 3
Viscosity at 175°C, m.P.a.s.	14.000	22.500
Ball tack, cm	2	11
5 Polyken tack, g	500	1.000
Loop tack, N/25 mm	8	13
Shear on steel, hr	6	60
Shear Adhesion Failure Temperature	50	59
180°, Peel, g/cm	380	800
10 Pick up, g/m ²	33	30

From Table 2 it may be seen that the blend of Example 2 has significantly lower viscosity and ball tack than the comparison. The blend of Example 2 also had a lower peel value which is useful for the majority of hot melt pressure sensitive adhesive (HMPSA) applications, although in certain applications such as assembly tapes and labels, a higher peel is desirable. It is noted also that shear and hot shear values are much lower in the adhesive composition of the invention compared with the one incorporating the conventional tackifier resin. This is believed to be due to the low softening point of the resin, accentuated by the high level of oil in the blend.

Generally the peel adhesion, polyken tack, loop tack, cohesion and elevated temperature performance of the composition of Example 2 are not optimised in this particular blend; these properties can be improved by reducing or eliminating the relatively high load of paraffinic oil, it being noted that the oil was included in Examples 2 and 3 to provide a direct comparison with formulations recommended by the copolymer suppliers (using

1 conventional resins) which require the oil content to
provide the desired tackifying/adhesive characteristics.
Examples 4-13

5 The effect of oil and differing amounts and types of resin
in adhesive compositions was assessed. The performances
from solvent (toluene) blends, were compared with similar
blends containing Escorez resin 5380 because it is
acknowledged as being a tackifier for Kraton G rubbers.

10 The resin 1 used in these examples was prepared from a feed
containing 35 wt.% CPD, 11 wt.% methyl CPD present as
dimers and codimers the percentages being based on monomer
content by polymerising at 261°C for 2 1/4 hours followed by
hydrogenation. The characteristics of the resin are:

	Softening Point	61°C
15	Tg	10°C
	Saybolt Colour	30
	Bromine Number	1.4
	Wax Cloud Point	<75°C
	Wt.% of material of	7
20	Molecular weight above 1000	

The results are given in Table 3 that follows.

- 13 -

TABLE 3

Example	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Kraton G 1657	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Escorez 5380	200	200	-	100	-	100	140	-	-	-
Resin 1	-	-	200	-	100	-	-	-	-	-
Resin of Example 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	140	160
Flexon 876	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Irganox 1076	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	-	-
Irganox 1010	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
Bal. 1 tack (cm)	7.5	>30	10	16	4.5	25.5	30+	7.5	12	8
Polyken tack (g)	950	700	850	500	200	590	580	1090	1282	1543
180° Peel (g/cm)	540	780	520	340	270	1360	1545	1360	1590	1727
90° Peel (g/cm)	-	-	-	-	-	818	773	773	1136	1227
Loop tack (N/25 mm)	13	2	17	11	7	-	-	-	-	-
*Shear on metal, h	85	>200	>200	>200	>200	72	72	72	72	72
*S.A.F.T. (°C)	59	77	66	97	85	114	104	103	107	105

*Tests for Examples 4-8 carried out on different basis from Examples 9-13

- 1 Results generally achieved by use of Escorez 5380 as tackifier with Kraton G 1657 are as follows:

	Resin loading	150 - 250 phr
	Ball tack	< 10 cm
5	Polyken tack	> 500 g
	180° peel	> 360 g/cm

- Bearing these values in mind, it may be seen from Table 3 that Resin 1 at a loading of 200 phr met or exceeded all of these targets while at the same time providing high loop tack, excellent cohesion and average hot shear. These properties were far superior than when using Escorez 5380 at the same resin loading, and better than the blend containing Escorez 5380 and oil. It may be seen that the presence of paraffinic oil, while enhancing tack properties, is detrimental to cohesion and hot shear. At a loading of 100 phr the resins of the invention improved the ball tack further, but the polyken tack and loop tack dropped somewhat.

Examples 14 to 23

- 20 The commercial material Escorez 5380 was tested as a tackifier for Kraton G and was then subjected to solvent extraction with dioxane and the soluble and insoluble fractions also tested as tackifiers for Kraton G. The properties of the fractions were as follows:

1		Dioxolane Soluble (84.5% of Escorez 5380)	Dioxolane Insoluble
	Softening Point	55°C	140°C
5	Weight Average Molecular Weight	240	1860
	Number Average Molecular Weight	100	155
	Tg	about 5°C	about 90°C

- 10 The molecular weights are measured relative to a polyisobutylene standard.

The pressure sensitive adhesive formulations and their pressure sensitive adhesive properties are given in Table 4.

TABLE 4

Example	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<u>PSA Formulation</u>										
Kraton G 1657 (a)	100									
Escorez 5380	100									
Fractionated E-5380	100									
- Dioxane Soluble	100									
- Dioxane Insoluble	100									
Oronite 128 Polybutene (Inhibitor)	1 phr									
<u>PSA Evaluation</u>										
Rolling ball tack, cm	20.9	7.7	6.7	30+	30+	5.1	5.9	12.6	18.6	10.8
Peel strength, lbs/in	1.83	0.68	1.1	0.18	0	1.56	2.16	1.92	2.21	2.2
Quick stick, lbs/in	1.3	0.46	0.57	0.12	0	0.64	1.06	0.97	1.03	0.99
Polyken tack, gms/cm ²	322	333	543	0	0	567	650	463	438	520
Shear, hrs										

(a) Low viscosity grade

1 Example 24

5 A feed containing 11 wt.% methyl cyclopentadiene, 36 wt.% cyclopentadiene and 8 wt.% C₅ acyclic dienes present as codimers the majority of the remainder being unpolymerisable materials was thermally polymerised at 259 to 260°C for 2 1/4 hours hydrogenated and stripped to yield a resin having the following properties.

	Softening point	53°C
	Tg	+8°C
10	Saybolt Colour	30.
	Bromine number	2.3
	Amount of material of molecular weight above 1000	8%

15 The resin was evaluated as a tackifier for Kraton G 1657 with the following results.

Formulation

Kraton G 1657	100
Product of Example 24	122
Irganox 1076	1.0

20 Pressure Sensitive Adhesive Properties

	Viscosity (mPas)	98.000
	Ball tack (cm)	3
	Polyken (G)	270
	180° peel (g/cm)	360.
25	Loop tack (n/inch)	3.3
	SAFT (°C)	70
	Hot shear (min/°C)	15/60
	Coating quantity (g/m ²)	24

1 Example 25

Using the same feed, polymerisation and hydrogenation conditions as in Example 24 but with a less severe stripping a liquid resin having the following properties was obtained.

5	Brookfield Viscosity at 20°C	65000 Cps
	Tg	-35°C
	Saybolt Colour	30
	Bromine Number	2.8
10	Amount of material of molecular weight above 1000	3%

Example 26

A flakeable resin was made from the same feed as in Example 24 and using the same polymerisation and hydrogenation conditions but the stripping conditions were varied to yield
15 a resin having the following properties.

	Softening point	80°C
	Tg	24°C
	Saybolt Colour	30
	Bromine Number	1.9
20	Amount of materials of molecular weight above 1000	8%

1 Example 27

Equal amounts of the resins of Examples 25 and 26 were blended together to give the following resin

	Softening point	40°C
5	Saybolt Colour	30
	Tg	-6°C
	Amount of material of molecular weight above 1000	5%

Example 28

10 Equal amounts of the resin of Example 25 and Escorez 5380 were blended together to give the following resin.

	Softening point	42°C
	Saybolt Colour	30
	Tg	-4°C
15	Amount of material of molecular weight above 1000	10%

The products of Examples 27 and 28 were tested as tackifiers for Kraton G 1657 with the following results.

	Kraton C 1657	100	100
20	Example 27 Resin	200	
	Example 28 Resin		200
	Viscosity at 175°C mPas	31.200	31.400
	Pick-up g/m ²	24	22
	Rolling ball tack cm	3.5-4	4
25	Polyken tack g	550	520
	180° Peel strength g/cm	420	370
	Loop tack N/inch	12	13.5

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1 SAFT °C
Hot shear min/°C
Shear on metal hrs

56
5'40°C
45

58
12'40°C
57

1 CLAIMS

- 1 1 A hydrogenated hydrocarbon resin containing at least 40
wt.% of monomer units derived from cyclopentadiene and
5 having a softening point (SP) which is lower than 90°C
and a glass transition temperature (Tg) as determined
by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) which is
from 35 to 70°C lower than the softening point and less
than 12 wt.% of said resin having a molecular weight
above 1000.
- 10 2 A hydrogenated hydrocarbon resin according to claim 1
in which the Tg is from 35 to 70°C lower than the
softening point.
- 3 3 A hydrogenated resin according to claim 1 having a
softening point of 45 to 80°C.
- 15 4 A process for producing the resin of claims 1 to 3
which comprises subjecting a feed containing at least
40 wt.% of cyclopentadiene based on the weight of
polymerisable material to thermal polymerisation at
240-270°C for 1.5 to 3 hours at a pressure of 5-15 bar
20 g to yield an intermediate resin of softening point in
the range 50-70°C, then catalytically hydrogenating the
intermediate resin stripping off the hydrogenation
stage solvent, optionally with steam distillation, to
form the desired resin.
- 25 5 A resin whenever produced by the process of claim 2.
- 6 6 The use of a resin according to claim 1 to 3 or claim
5 as tackifier in a pressure sensitive adhesive
Formulation.

- 1 7 An adhesive composition comprising (i) an elastomeric polymer; and, as tackifier for said polymer, (ii) a resin according to any of claims 1 to 3 or claim 5.
- 5 8 An adhesive composition according to claim 7 wherein the elastomeric polymer is a block copolymer.
- 9 An adhesive composition according to claim 7 wherein the elastomeric polymer is a hydrogenated block copolymer of polystyrene-polybutadiene-polystyrene.
- 10 An adhesive composition according to claim 9 which comprises from 100-250 parts by weight resin per 100 parts by weight elastomeric polymer.
- 11 An adhesive composition according to any of claims 7 to 10 which contains no oil and/or other plasticizing material.

CLAIMS FOR AUSTRIA

1 A process for producing a resin containing at least 40
wt.% of monomer units derived from cyclopentadiene and
having a softening point (SP) which is lower than 90°C
5 and a glass transition temperature (Tg) as determined
by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) which is
from 35 to 70°C lower than the softening point and less
than 12 wt.% of said resin having a molecular weight
above 1000 which comprises subjecting a feed containing
0 at least 40 wt.% of cyclopentadiene based on the weight
of polymerisable material to thermal polymerisation at
240-270°C for 1.5 to 3 hours at a pressure of 5-15 bar
g to yield an intermediate resin of softening point in
the range 50-70°C, then catalytically hydrogenating the
5 intermediate resin stripping off the hydrogenation
stage solvent, optionally with steam distillation, to
form the desired resin.

2 A process for producing an adhesive composition
comprising mixing (i) an elastomeric polymer; and, as
20 tackifier for said polymer, (ii) a resin containing
at least 40 wt.% of monomer units derived from
cyclopentadiene and having a softening point (SP) which
is lower than 90°C 5 and a glass transition temperature
(Tg) as determined by differential scanning calorimetry
(DSC) which is from 35 to 70°C lower than the softening
25 point and less than 12 wt.% of said resin having a
molecular weight above 1000.